

**Update Report from the Climate Change Advisory Task Force
September 23, 2009**

Pursuant to Ordinance 06-113, I am pleased to submit this update report of the Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) to the Chair and Members of the BP&S Committee, and through them to the Chair and Members of the Board of County Commissioners.

As you are aware, The CCATF is charged with identifying potential future climate change impacts to Miami-Dade County and then providing recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding actions that should be taken to begin adapting for and mitigating these impacts. In order to effectively address the overlapping issues important in this mitigation and adaptation planning process, six (6) committees and a Steering Committee were formed in 2007. The committees include the following: The Science Committee, chaired by Dr. Hal Wanless; The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Committee, chaired by Mr. Richard Pettigrew; The Built Environment Adaptation Committee, chaired by Ms. Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk; The Natural Systems Adaptation Committee, Chaired by Mr. Dan Kimball; the Economic, Social, & Health Committee, chaired by Captain Dan Kipnis; and The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Ms. Carolyn Dekle. With the complexity of the greenhouse gas reduction issues, the GHG Committee created two subcommittees: Transportation and Alternate Fuels chaired by Jose K. Fuentes, and Buildings and Energy chaired by Jane Gilbert. An update from each of the Committees and Subcommittees is included below.

I am very gratified to report that more than two years after appointment, all of the Chairs initially appointed to the various Committees are still serving or willing to serve the County and CCATF. This speaks extremely well of the quality of the CCATF appointments by the BCC, the Mayor, and the County Manager. Unfortunately, the nine member appointments made with recommendations from the County Manager all expired in January 2009. For unclear, but I am sure critical reasons to the functioning of the Manager's Office, the BCC confirmation of the recommendations for reappointments of these nine members has been delayed until at least November 2009 when they are tentatively scheduled for BCC hearing.

Our Steering Committee met in June and approved 15 new recommendations from our Committees to move forward to the CCATF for approval. We attempted to have a full CCATF meeting in August, but could not meet with a full quorum to make the necessary votes. In anticipation of the Manager's appointments being approved by BCC, I have delayed scheduling a Task Force meeting. Currently, three of our Committee Chairs are Manager appointments and their full voting participation in the meeting is important to me. The important recommendations, while still in draft form pending full Task Force approval, are attached to this report for your purview.

Despite the delay in getting you the final work products, I am still pleased to welcome three new members who have been appointed by the Mayor and Commissioners in 2009 as replacements for those members who found it necessary to resign or were not reappointed. I am equally confident that the new appointments or reappointments will serve the CCATF as we move forward with our mission. They are Jane Gilbert, Jose K. Fuentes, and Albert Harum-Alvarez.

Since the Task Force provided the "Second Report and Initial Recommendations" to the Board of County Commissioners in April 2008, the various committee members, participants, and County staff have been meeting and working in earnest to continue progress in the County's climate change mitigation and adaptation planning process. Since January 2009, the full task force has met twice: once to hear an update from Commissioner Sorenson's office and once to get an update on DERM's sea level rise mapping project supervised by the Science Committee. CCATF Committees have met 28 times and drafted fifteen

(15) new recommendations to supplement the initial recommendations presented to BCC in 2008. These draft recommendations have been approved by CCATF Steering and sent to the County's Department Directors for comment. These draft recommendations, and any other recommendations completed in the near future, will be presented to the full CCATF for consideration later this year or early in 2010, depending on the confirmation of the Manager's CCATF member recommendations by the BCC. DERM continues to provide the significant administrative assistance and support to the Task Force in this effort.

With direction from Commissioner Sorenson to the OOS and the County Manager's assignment of Susy Torriente to lead the Office of Sustainability in July 2009, coordination between CCATF and OOS has been more clearly defined. OOS, which along with various County agencies was already providing staff support in the Committees, is now in the process of considering the appropriateness of each recommendation, prioritizing, and assigning the County agencies necessary to implement the CCATF recommendations already presented to the Board. With this increased collaboration and participation between CCATF and County agencies, the Board can be even more confident that the CCATF is advancing the County's response to climate change as expeditiously as possible.

CCATF is also participating at a regional level when appropriate. I, along with my Vice Chair, James Murley, will be participating in the Broward sponsored Mayors' Climate Summit taking place in October 2009. Additionally, the CCATF Steering Committee has directed the Science Committee to ensure that the County's sea level mapping effort includes a regional scale and compatibility with adjoining counties that will facilitate emergency planning and other regional issues.

Committee Updates

The Science Committee is tasked with providing the Task Force and its Committees with a scientific assessment of the magnitude and timing of expected climate change impacts to Miami-Dade County. This Committee has met officially once this year, but appointed members have been collaborating closely with DERM's Water Management Division to finalize an accurate base elevation map for the County from which sea level rise planning can be based. This collaboration moves forward the request by the 2008 GOE Committee for implementation of this critical recommendation. Having knowledgeable and experienced staff, DERM has focused significant resources to create as accurate as possible, a GIS base elevation map using LiDAR data obtained from the National Hurricane Center and other survey sources. The Science Committee received the electronic map product in August 2009 and committee members associated with FIU are providing a peer review prior to the data being released. The sea level rise scenarios resulting from the base map will be utilized by the other Committees to identify areas of concern for further recommendations.

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Committee is tasked with identifying and promoting ways in which the County can further reduce its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. This effort was divided into two Subcommittees; GHG reduction related to 1) Buildings and Energy and 2) Transportation and Alternate Fuels. Since that time, the GHG Committee has not met independently. However, the Chair, Richard Pettigrew participates on the Subcommittees.

The GHG Reduction Alternative Fuels and Transportation Subcommittee chaired by Mr. Jose K. Fuentes, WREN Group, Inc., has met four (4) times in 2009. This year the subcommittee is investigating high speed rail, feebates, mobility fees, biodiesel and local alternate fuel manufacture. The Sub-Committee gets significant staff support from DERM's Air Monitoring Division.

The Greenhouse Gas Energy and Buildings Subcommittee chaired by Jane Gilbert, High Impact Integrated Solutions, and has met six (6) times in 2009 and has aggressively developed 7 new draft recommendations for mitigating green house gases in the built environment.

The Built Environment Adaptation Committee chaired by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Dean of the University of Miami, School of Architecture, is tasked with focusing on adaptation measures associated with the County's built environment and infrastructure and has met six (6) times in 2009. The Committee has investigated Smart Growth principals, Florida's Building Commission and Building Code, the CDMP Evaluation and Assessment Report process and has drafted 5 new recommendations on these topics.

The Natural Systems Adaptation Committee, tasked with providing recommendations for adaptation and adaptive management of natural systems to predicted climate impacts, is chaired by Dan Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Park, and has met once in 2009. The Committee is waiting on input from OOS on implementation of the 2008 recommendations associated with land preservation and a "Vital Signs" monitoring program, to serve as a multi-parameter ecosystem monitoring program that will help track climate change effects.

The Economic, Social and Health Committee, tasked with providing analysis and recommendations for the economic, social, and health impacts of climate change is chaired by Captain Dan Kipnis. The Committee has met five (5) times in 2009 and developed three new draft recommendations targeting assessing public knowledge and education on climate change.

The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, tasked with identifying and working with a broad range of public, private, civic, and non-profit organizations to identify opportunities for collaboration on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies is chaired by Carolyn Dekle, Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. This Committee has met four (4) times in 2009 and focused on assessing municipal and agency knowledge on climate change matters.

The Steering Committee is comprised of all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the various Committees, Task Force Vice-Chair Jim Murley, Office of Sustainability Manager Susy Torriente and Devesh Nirmul, DERM staff persons Nichole Hefty and Lisbeth Britt and me. The Steering Committee met once in June to consider and comment on the recommendations drafted by the Committees in preparation for consideration at the next full Task Force meeting.


Harvey Ruvlin, Chair